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CURTIS SAYS NO CHANCE OF SMALL PLANTER AT OLA MAKING PROFIT

Witness at House Committee Investigation Lays Stress on Deductions Charged Against Independent Cane-Grower—Overcharges of Past Alleged—Criticizes 'Eckart' Contract

"Under the Eckart contract there's no chance of the small cane planter getting out with a profit," Curtis testified before the house committee on agriculture last night in the series of public hearings held as part of the investigation into the contractual relations between plantations and small cane-growers. A. G. Curtis, cane-grower of the island of Hawaii, declared that there are many inequalities in the present situation.

During the evening he went in detail into his own experiences in selling cane to Ola plantation, both under former managements and under the present management of C. H. Eckart.

One of his comments was that of a series of five contracts with the plantations, each was worse for the small planter than the one just previous.

Curtis' testimony, even that which criticized the plantations most severely, was given in a calm and usually matter-of-fact tone and he frequently credited the plantations with being fair in certain particulars. In others he thought the plantations are unfair.

The most favorable contract with Ola, he said at one point, gave 40 per cent of the profits to the small planter and 60 per cent to the plantation. He said for 100 acres of cane for two years he got only \$25.64 net profit and this sum did not include charges for bookkeeping, superintendency, taxes, insurance or rent on certain fields. Had these items been figured in he would have lost on the enterprise.

He said that the "Eckart contract"—referring to the present contract—makes a further deduction, after several others, of 5 per cent "which they call tax."

"I tried to find out what this was for and one engineer said it was for a little more profit," he said.

Under questioning by Attorney Harry Irwin of Hilo, who is representing the small planters in the investigation, Curtis said that he believed this deduction is made on account of discrepancies between the cane weights in the fields and at the mills. This opened up a line of questions by Irwin, answering which Curtis testified that under the former Ola regime there had been a difference, in 1911, of over 20,000 tons of cane between the field and mill weights. This big amount, he thought, was lost, scattered around in various ways, and he testified Manager Eckart confirmed this belief.

"I would call it negligence on the part of the management," said Curtis. He also repeated the complaint other witnesses have made, that under the Eckart contract the small planter is paid not on the basis of analyses of

his own cane, but on average results, so that if his cane is high class, he gets no benefit from it.

Another allegation he made was that he was overcharged for fertilizer when John Watt was manager. He said he was supposed to be charged the market price but when a certain fertilizer the market price was \$55 he was charged \$60. Even figuring in the freight from Honolulu to the Ola section he could not reconcile these figures.

On the freight from Honolulu to Hilo, according to these figures, the plantation made 50 cents a ton off of him.

Another deduction he alleged was that of one-tenth of a cent per pound charged the Hawaiian sugar men by the eastern refiners. This charge, he said, he understood was made for expeditious handling of the eastern seaboard, avoiding warehouse and other charges. His point was that though this charge is not made by the Pacific coast refiners—the Crockett refinery—and though half of Oka's sugar goes to the Crockett, the small planter doing business with Ola plantation still must pay this one-tenth of a cent.

High Interest Rate Alleged.

Another statement in confirmation of a declaration made by A. MacAulon, an earlier witness, was that on money advances from the plantation, he was charged a very high interest rate. He said his contract called for eight per cent interest annually but that the plantation has been charging eight per cent interest compounded monthly.

He testified also that "harvesting deductions" not provided for in the contract were charged against him.

The question of Ola's finances was brought up, the witness saying that he had been told by the Ola manager that the company could not pay any more for cane on account of its expense for "overhead" charges. Attorney Irwin then read from Manager Eckart's report last month showing the reduction in overhead charges.

"It is unfair," the planter to charge up losses to them when, as shown by this report, the cost for raising cane in 1913 was 45 per cent more than it ought to have been," commented Irwin.

Hawaii and the Philippines.

Still discussing the matter of the remuneration paid planters, Curtis and Irwin referred to an article in the Star-Bulletin a few days ago, quoting the printed report of George H. Fairchild before the senate Philippine committee. This dealt with the San Carlos Milling Company's operations in the Philippines and Fairchild was quoted as saying that the San Carlos "central" gets 40 per cent of the sugar it handles for the planters while the planters get 60 per cent.

This was compared somewhat by Mr. Curtis with the Ola charges. He said that the millwork in the Philippines should be more costly than in Hawaii because he knew of men getting much larger salaries there than in Hawaii.

This led to a discussion of milling and marketing expense of Hawaiian plantations in which a number of figures were quoted to show, it appeared, that Ola should be able to pay considerably more to the small planters who sell it cane.

Attorney Alexander Lindsay, who represents the plantation committee, asked a number of questions designed to throw light on the difficulties confronting the plantations in handling small cane contracts with independent growers.

Mr. Curtis suggested in the course of the hearing that a solution of the difficulties for the small planters might be either a government commission or government-owned mills.

It was announced today that the public hearing by the committee was to be continued at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon.

PROMOTION BODY TO BOOST TRAVEL TO ALL ISLANDS

New Committee Favors Adding Representatives From Maui, Hawaii and Kauai to Board

At a meeting of the new Hawaii promotion committee yesterday resolutions were adopted announcing that the disposition of the new committee is to distribute travel fairly among all of the Hawaiian islands. L. A. Thurston announced that he would submit a proposed amendment to the Chamber of Commerce to allow delegates from Maui, Kauai and Hawaii to sit as members of the promotion committee. The resolution dealing with travel to the other islands is as follows:

"Resolved, That the time has arrived when the promotion committee should actively, as an integral part of its duties, take up the matter of care and entertainment of travelers, in the ascertaining what there is to be seen in the islands, how to see it and the cost thereof, and by organizing and promoting travel among and through the islands."

Last year the supervisors complained because the city contributed \$3500 to the promotion committee without representation on the committee. With the appointment of Supervisor Hollinger to the promotion body, harmony prevails between the city and the committee.

Thurston cited that friction as an example in recommending that Kauai, Maui and Hawaii be represented on the committee.

The following standing committees were announced by Chairman Berndt:

Finance—E. A. Berndt, chairman; H. Gooding, Field.

Publications and Literature—Ed. Towse, chairman; L. A. Thurston, Field.

Inter-island (organization)—H. Gooding, Field, chairman; Ed. Towse, Home Work—L. A. Thurston, chairman.

Territorial and County Affairs—Benjamin Hollinger, chairman.

HEAVY SENTENCES FOR TWO CHINESE BURGLARS

Chong Hoon and Lee Chew, indicted Thursday for burglarizing the country house of J. Lightfoot at Wahiawa, pleaded guilty before Circuit Judge Ashford yesterday and were sentenced to three and two and a half years, respectively, in the territorial prison. Both have done "stretches" on similar charges heretofore. Hoon begged clemency, promising to leave the territory at the termination of his time in jail, but the court refused to reduce the sentence.

Sailor Shiget, the Japanese accused of attempting to kill Superintendent H. W. Kinney's house servant and indicted by the grand jury Thursday yesterday, Shiget is under a total of \$5000 bail, but has not furnished any part of it yet. Bond of \$4000 was set by the circuit court, while \$1000 bond is required in the district court on a charge of using threatening language against the housemaid. He will plead in circuit court on April 6.

DETECTIVES CAPTURE ESCAPED SOLDIERS

The three prisoners who escaped Thursday morning from the Fort Ruger guard house were captured yesterday near the Nuuanu dam by a squad of Captain McDuffie's detectives. They submitted without resistance.

It is said the trio had held up and robbed a Chinese of several dollars on the Nuuanu drive a few hours before their capture in order to get food. The men are Felix Sizemore, William H. Harding and Albert Dietz.

ADMIRAL DEWA TELLS JAPANESE OF HAWAII TO BE OF SERVICE TO U. S.

Urges Usefulness Upon His Countrymen—Brands as False New York Report

Admiral Baron Shiget Dewa, a visitor in Honolulu for a few hours, warmly affirms the cordial relations between Japan and the United States and declares that Japanese in Hawaii should give their loyalty and service to America.

Admiral Dewa arrived on the T. K. K. liner Nippon Maru late yesterday afternoon. He is on his way to Japan after having gone to the United States to represent his government at the opening of the Panama canal. The postponement of the opening has caused him to remain in Tokyo; incidentally he denies in no uncertain way that he was annoyed at the Grand Central station in New York by being barred from his special car under the supposition that "Admiral Dewa" was the official for whom the railroad had reserved the cars.

To a representative of the Star-Bulletin on board the Nippon Maru Admiral Dewa said:

"I am very glad to state that I am greatly pleased at the sincere and warm friendship for my country and toward myself shown everywhere in America. Everywhere I went the American government sent a military guard to attend at my arrival. And I am proud to say I am carrying home the most peaceful gospel from the American people."

"I am not going home on account of the present Chinese question at all. I am simply going home on account of the postponement of the opening of the Panama canal by the U. S. government. A long stay in America has not been necessary."

"When I left New York for Chicago, the president of the railroad of the line on which I was traveling accompanied me to a special car and I was cared for most thoughtfully, not only in the eastern state but when I was in California, the company telegraphing to the stations wherever my train was passing. I was greeted by all the American people as well as by my countrymen. Nor did I experience any inconvenience in my journey across the continent."

"President Wilson is indeed a great man. I honor him in every respect and I also have great confidence in and esteem for Secretary of State Bryan."

The Japanese in America must understand the present condition of their own country—a small country with a population increasing 500,000 every year. As long as Japanese subjects here are making good earnings and have a good home, they must settle down and enjoy their lives under the powerful protection of the Stars and Stripes. For all Japanese subjects now living in America and this American territory I advise them that now is the time to prepare to be good Americanized Japanese."

Admiral Dewa and his party were met by Eleve Consul Fujii on the wharf. Lieuts. Kobayashi and Uyeda are in the admiral's party.

Yesterday shortly after he landed Admiral Dewa received the following cablegram from Secretary of State Bryan:

"Your kind telegram just received. Your visit to the United States gave assurance of the cordial friendship existing between our two countries and we are gratified to learn from you that your stay among us has given you pleasure. Allow me to say in return that the people have been favorably impressed by your personality and by the speeches which you have made."

"Your coming has given additional proof of the advantage to be derived from an exchange of visits. May you have a safe and prosperous voyage home. Accept my sincere good wish."



Admiral Baron Dewa

es for yourself and your countrymen." Illustrating his keen interest in matters of moment to America, Admiral Dewa sent the following cablegram to Secretary of the Navy Daniels yesterday:

"I am shocked to learn of the accident to the submarine F-4. Please accept my sincere condolence for the sad accident to your navy. I honestly hope the brave men in the ship may be saved."

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